

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 7 and 15-21 have been canceled. Claims 1-6 and 8-14 have been amended, and claim 43 has been added. Claims 22-42 stand withdrawn as being directed toward non-elected subject matter. The amended claims have been amended to place all elements in non-mean-plus-function format.

Claim 1 now recites some of its original subject matter and the subject matter of claim 7, and new claim 43 recites the subject matter of original claims 1 and 7. Claims 2-5 and 8-14 have been amended to depend from claims 1 and 43 in the alternative, thereby obviating the applied objections.

Claims 1-6 were rejected, under 35 USC §102(b), as being anticipated by Evans (US 6,283,440). To the extent these rejections may be deemed applicable to the amended claims, the Applicants respectfully traverse based on the points set forth below.

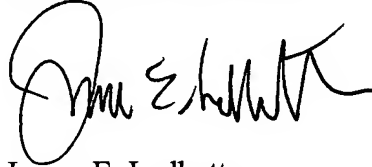
Claim 1 now defines a micropump that houses a liquid reaction agent within a microcapsule, which is loaded in a reaction chamber of the micropump. The Office Action does not propose that Evans discloses this subject matter. The Applicants believe that Evans fails to disclose this subject matter.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Evans does not anticipate the subject matter now defined by claim 1. Independent claim 43 similarly recites the above-mentioned subject matter distinguishing claim 1 from Evans. Therefore, allowance of claims 1 and 43 and all claims dependent therefrom is deemed to be warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James E. Ledbetter", with a stylized, flowing script.

James E. Ledbetter
Registration No. 28,732

Date: May 15, 2008
JEL/DWW/att

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